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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,222	01/29/2002	Tsutomu Ohtani	Q68208	2223
7590 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037-3213			EXAMINER HASAN, SYED Y	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/058,222	OHTANI ET AL.	
	Examiner Syed Y. Hasan	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/09/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re page 11 applicant argues with respect to claim 24, that the subparagraph of claim 24 is disclosed in Browne at Fig. 6 and p. 25, lines 24-80 is incorrect, because Browne fails to teach "preparing a first deletion flag." Although Browne discloses a "lock flag," it does not teach a "deletion flag," as claimed.

In response the examiner respectfully disagrees. Browne's "lock flag" is performing the same function as a "deletion flag". This is obvious because Browne discusses that when "inadequate unlocked storage is storage section 104 is reached, the multi-source recorder player 100 preferably alerts the user and presents a list of locked programs" (page 25, lines 30 –33) which could then be deleted if desired.

Applicant further argues that in Browne, if the lock flag is not attached to a program, it does not mean that the program should be deleted. In contrast, in claim 24, if the flag is attached, it means that that program should be deleted. Browne does not appear to be concerned with whether a program should be deleted or not, unlike claim 24.

In response the examiner respectfully disagrees. As stated above the function of the lock flag is to alert user of the "storage capacity condition" (page 26, lines 1 – 2). The same "lock flag" could serve the purpose of "deletion flag" if desired.

In re page 11 applicant argues that Claim 24 also requires "attaching the first deletion flag." The Examiner alleges that subparagraph C of claim 24 is disclosed in Browne at Fig. 5, and p. 25, lines 24-30. Applicant respectfully submits that this is incorrect; since Browne does not teach a "deletion flag," Browne is therefore unable to "attach the first deletion flag," as required by claim 24.

In response the examiner again respectfully disagrees. Since we have established above that the function of the "locked flag" and "deletion flag" could be utilized as the same, then Browne discloses that "the multi-source recorder player 100 preferably alerts the user and presents a list of locked stored programs, preferably in a format" (page 25, lines 31 – 33) which clearly implies that the flag is attached.

Applicant states that the Examiner further contends that subparagraph D of claim 24 is disclosed in Browne at Fig. 6 and p. 25, lines 24-30. Applicant argues that this is inaccurate, because Browne shows a list of all the programs, whereas claim 24 "generat[es] a list... except for the first piece of information to which the first deletion flag is attached." In the method of claim 24, programs which should be deleted are thus excluded from the list when the list is generated.

In response the examiner again respectfully disagrees. Browne contends that "the user may update the stored program600. The user has a keypad on the control panel for text entry into the multi-source recorder player 100" (page 25, lines 9 – 12) which clearly shows that the list can be manually appended if desired.

The applicant states that Subparagraph B of Claim 24 recites that "the first piece of information currently played should be deleted." (emphasis added.) Applicant notes

for the purposes of clarification and explanation that in an exemplary embodiment, this could mean that a viewer decides to delete a program while that program is being played back, i.e., a viewer decides to delete the program while he is watching the program. Browne fails to teach that information "currently played" may be deleted.

In response the examiner submits that the objectives of the invention as disclosed by Browne are "view programs while simultaneously recording one or more other programs", and "record from multiple channels and from multiple distribution sources simultaneously" (page 2, lines 16 – 23). Given these objectives it is obvious to note that the information "currently played" could be deleted.

Examiner therefore rejects claim 24, In light of the above mentioned.

Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Browne in view of Cragun. Claim 1 is an apparatus claim analogous to the method claim 24, and Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's understanding of Browne is inaccurate, as explained above.

Examiner responds that this matter has been discussed in claim 24 above.

Applicant states that the Examiner points to Fig. 2 of Browne as allegedly showing the generating unit of claim 1. This observation is inaccurate because Fig. 2 of Browne shows a main menu, not the list of recorded programs. The generating unit of claim 1 generates a list of recorded programs which excludes the flagged programs.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Browne further states that "When this option is selected, a stored program list screen 600 is output by controller 105 to output 112a" (page 24, lines 22 – 24) which brings us to figure 6 and that has been dealt with above.

Applicant contends that Cragun fails to teach a flag setting unit of claim 1 because the flag setting unit of claim 1 prepares a deletion flag while a program is being played back, i.e., "while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information." This feature is not taught in Cragun.

Examiner agrees that this feature is not taught in Cragun. The feature for "flag setting" is taught by Browne and Cragun discloses "permitting the viewer to interactively input information while the television program is simultaneously being displayed on display 106" as mentioned in the office action.

Applicant states that Column 9, lines 19-25 of Cragun appear to indicate that information will be overlayed on the video picture to assist in "inputting information." This video picture appears to be a still image because the information is overlayed on a particular image. In contrast, in claim 1, the flag is attached while the program is being displayed as a moving picture, because a still image is not sufficient for the viewer. Moreover, this portion of Cragun merely teaches "inputting information," and fails to teach specifying a program which should be deleted.

Examiner responds that Cragun further in his discloser states that "it would be possible to display such textual information on display 106 by itself, without other video picture, or in a window of display 106 while a television program is being shown on the remainder of the display" (col 9, lines 26 – 30). It should be apparent that Cragun is only disclosing the ability to do an interactive activity.

Since the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all elements of independent claim 1, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 are patentable

over the applied references.

Examiner therefore rejects claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-8 in light of the above mentioned.

Claim 9 recites a first flag and a second flag. One flag is attached to a program to be deleted while that program is being played back, and another flag is attached to a program to be deleted while that program is not being played back. Thus, claim 9 contains features analogous to claim 1. Claim 16 also contains features analogous to claim 1, as the limitations of claim 16 are similar to those of claim 1, but are written in means-plus-function form.

Since independent claims 9 and 16 include patentable features analogous to claim 1, claims 9 and 16, and their dependent claims 10-15 and 17-23 are patentable at least for reasons analogous to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Examiner rejects claim 6 and 9, in light of the rejection for claim 1 mentioned above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

3. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Browne et al (WO 92/22983).

(1) with regards to claim 24, Browne discloses

a method comprising the steps of:

- A) playing back a first piece of information among a plurality of pieces of information (page 13, lines 11 –13) recorded on a recording medium (figure 1, 104)
- B) preparing a first deletion flag indicating that the first piece of information currently played should be deleted (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)
- C) attaching the first deletion flag to the first piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)
- D) generating a list of images and/or characters representing the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium except for the first piece of information to which the first deletion flag is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne (WO 92/22983) in view of Cragun et al (US 5561457).

Browne discloses an apparatus for recording a plurality of pieces of information on a recording medium and reproducing information recorded thereon comprising:

a playback unit (figure 1, 100) for reading a selected piece of information from a

plurality of pieces of information (page 13, lines 11 - 13) recorded on the recording medium (figure 1, 104) to play back the selected piece of information (page 13, lines 13 - 17)

a flag setting unit (figure 6) for preparing a deletion flag indicating that the selected piece of information currently played should be deleted (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 30) and for attaching the deletion flag to the selected piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 30) further clarifying that when the "locked flag" is checked, it means that it should not be deleted.

and

a generating unit for generating a list (figure 2, page 24, lines 19 -22) of images and/or characters representing the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium (fig 6, page 24, lines 25 - 26) except for the selected piece of information to which the deletion flag is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 -30) further clarifying that the "locked" flag is checked it means that it should not be deleted.

Browne discloses all of the subject matter above, except a response to a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information

Cragun et al in the same field of endeavor teaches response to a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information (figure 1, 106, column 9, lines 19 - 25) in order to "permitting the viewer to interactively input information while a television program is simultaneously being displayed on display 106"

It is desirable to issue a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information. This enables the viewer to simultaneously interact with the system and the memory. It allows the user to change settings while watching the current program. This increases the ability of a viewer of televised information to locate information of interest from among a plurality of channels and/or programs.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set up a procedure to issue a deletion command while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information as taught by Cragun et al in the invention of Browne in order to ensure uninterrupted viewing of the playback while a deletion command is issued.

(2) with regards to claim 2, Browne discloses :

the apparatus according to claim 1 further including a control unit for rendering a recording area of the selected piece of information to which the deletion flag is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 27) further clarifying that the "locked" flag is checked it means that it should not be deleted, , overwritable when a remaining recording capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined capacity (page 25, lines 30 – 33, and page 26, lines 1 - 4) which provides "alerts" when storage capacity is reached.

(3) with regards to claim 3, Browne discloses :

the apparatus according to claim 1 further including an operation unit having a deletion button for issuing the deletion command (figure 3, page 19, lines 25 – 28)

(4) with regards to claim 4, Browne discloses :

the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generating unit generates a confirmation message before the deletion command is issued (page 25, lines 30 – 34, and page 26, lines 1 - 4), further clarifying that the confirmation message is in the form of an “alert” to the user before deletion.

(5) with regards to claim 5, Browne discloses :

the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selected piece of information remains recorded on the recording medium even after the deletion flag is attached to the selected piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 30), further clarifying that the confirmation message is in the form of an “alert” to the user before deletion.

(6) with regards to claim 6, Browne discloses

the apparatus according to claim 1 further including a recycle bin (figure 1, 104) for storing the selected piece of information when the deletion flag is attached to the selected piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30) whereas the recycle bin is shared storage while the program to be erased is tagged.

(7) with regards to claim 7, Browne discloses

the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selected piece of information is physically deleted from the recording medium when the deletion flag is attached to the selected piece of information (figure 3, page 19, lines 25 – 30) at the command of the user, the program is deleted, “erased”

(8) with regards to claim 8, Browne discloses

the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording medium is at least one

of a hard disc, a video tape, an optical disc and a semiconductor (figure 1, 104a, page 10, lines 32, and page 11, lines 1 – 3)

(9) with regards to claim 9, Browne discloses

an apparatus for recording a plurality of pieces of information on a recording medium and reproducing information recorded thereon comprising:

a playback unit (figure 1, 100) for reading a first piece of information from a plurality of pieces of information (page 13, lines 11 - 13) recorded on the recording medium (figure 1, 104) to play back the first piece of information (page 13, lines 13 - 17)

a first flag setting unit (figure 6) for preparing a first deletion flag indicating that the first piece of information currently played should be deleted, (figure 6, page 24 - 30) and for attaching the first deletion flag to the first piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 30) further clarifying that the “locked” flag is checked it means that it should not be deleted.

a second flag setting unit (figure 6) for preparing a second deletion flag indicating that a second piece of information not currently played should be deleted, (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 –30) in response to a second deletion command that designates the second piece of information, and for attaching the second deletion flag to the second piece of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 30) and

a generating unit for generating a list of images and/or characters representing the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium except for the first and second pieces of information to which the first and second deletion flags are

attached. (figure 6, page 24, lines 25 – 32) further clarifying that the “locked” flag is checked it means that it should not be deleted.

Browne discloses all of the subject matter above, except a response to a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information

Cragun et al in the same field of endeavor teaches response to a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information (figure 1, 106, column 9, lines 19 - 25) in order to “permitting the viewer to interactively input information while a television program is simultaneously being displayed on display 106”

It is desirable to issue a deletion command issued while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information. This enables the viewer to simultaneously interact with the system and the memory. It allows the user to change settings while watching the current program. This increases the ability of a viewer of televised information to locate information of interest from among a plurality of channels and/or programs.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set up a procedure to issue a deletion command while the playback unit is playing the selected piece of information as taught by Cragun et al in the invention of Browne in order to ensure uninterrupted viewing of the playback while a deletion command is issued.

(10) with regards to claim 10, Browne discloses the apparatus further including a control unit for rendering at least one of a first

recording area of the first piece of information to which the first deletion flag is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 - 27) which shows that selected programs can be erased and a second recording area of the second piece of information to which the second deletion flag is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 27) over writable when a remaining recording capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined capacity (figure 6, page 25, lines 30 – 33, page 26, lines 1-2)

(11) with regards to claim 11, Browne discloses the apparatus wherein the generating unit generates a first confirmation message before the first deletion command is issued (figure 6, page 25, lines 30 – 33, and page 26, lines 1 – 4) and generates a second confirmation message before the second deletion command is issued (figure 6, page 25, lines 30 – 33, and page 26, lines 1 – 4) further clarifying that the unit generates an "alert" to notify the user when storage is an issue.

(12) with regards to claim 12, Browne discloses the apparatus wherein at least one of the first and second pieces of information remains recorded on the recording medium even after the first and second deletions flags are attached to the first and second pieces of information. (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30) further clarifying that the recorded material is not deleted unless specifically done.

(13) with regards to claim 13, Browne discloses the apparatus further including a recycle bin (figure 1, 104) for storing at least one of the first and second pieces of information when the first and second deletion

flags are attached to the first and second pieces of information.(figure 6, page 6, lines 24 – 30) whereas the recycle bin is shared storage

(14) with regards to claim 14, Browne discloses

the apparatus wherein at least one of the first and second pieces of information is physically deleted from the recording medium when the first and second deletion flags are attached to the first and second pieces of information (figure 6, page 26, lines 2 – 4) where the user may “unlock” the program to be erased.

(15) with regards to claim 15, Browne discloses

the apparatus wherein the recording medium is at least one of a hard disc, a video tape, an optical disc and a semiconductor recorder (figure 1, 104a, page 10, lines 32, and page 11, lines 1 – 3)

(16) with regards to claim 16, Browne discloses

an apparatus comprising:

means for reading a first piece of information from a plurality of pieces of information (page 13, lines 11 - 13) recorded on a recording medium (figure 1, 104) to play back the first piece of information (page 13, lines 13 - 17)

means for preparing a first deletion flag indicating that the first piece of information currently played should be deleted, and for attaching the first deletion flag to the first piece of information; (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

generating means for generating a list of images and/or characters representing the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30) except for the first piece of information to which the first deletion flag

is attached (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

Browne discloses all of the subject matter above, except a response to a first deletion command issued while the first piece of information is being played,

Cragun et al in the same field of endeavor teaches response to a first deletion command issued while the first piece of information is being played (figure 1, 106, column 9, lines 19 - 25) in order to "permitting the viewer to interactively input information while a television program is simultaneously being displayed on display 106"

It is desirable to issue a deletion command issued while the first piece of information is being played. This enables the viewer to simultaneously interact with the system and the memory. It allows the user to change settings while watching the current program. This increases the ability of a viewer of televised information to locate information of interest from among a plurality of channels and/or programs.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set up a procedure to issue a first deletion command while the first piece of information is being played as taught by Cragun et al in the invention of Browne in order to ensure uninterrupted viewing of the playback while a first deletion command is issued.

(17) with regards to claim 17, Browne discloses

the apparatus further including a second flag setting unit for preparing a second deletion flag indicating that a second piece of information not currently played should be deleted, in response to a second deletion command that designates the second

piece of information, and for attaching the second deletion flag to the second piece of information, and wherein the generating means generates a list of the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium except for the first and second pieces of information to which the first and second deletion flags are attached. (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

(18) with regards to claim 18, Browne discloses the apparatus further including means for rendering at least one of a first recording area of the first piece of information to which the first deletion flag is attached and a second recording area of the second piece of information to which the second deletion flag is attached over writable when a remaining recording capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined capacity (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

(19) with regards to claim 19, Browne discloses the apparatus, wherein the generating unit generates a first confirmation message before the first deletion command is issued and displays a second confirmation message before the second deletion command is issued (figure 6, page 25, lines 30 – 33, page 26, lines 1-2)

(20) with regards to claim 20, Browne discloses the apparatus, wherein at least one of the first and second pieces of information remains recorded on the recording medium even after the first and second deletions flags are attached to the first and second pieces of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

(21) with regards to claim 22, Browne discloses the apparatus further including a recycle bin (figure 6, 104) for storing at least one of the first and second pieces of information when the first and second deletion flags are attached to the first and

second pieces of information (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

(22) with regards to claim 22, Browne discloses the apparatus, wherein at least one of the first and second pieces of information is physically deleted from the recording medium when the first and second deletion flags are attached to the first and second pieces of information. (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30)

(23) with regards to claim 23, Browne discloses the apparatus, wherein the recording medium is at least one of a hard disc, a video tape, an optical disc and a semiconductor (figure 1, 104a, page 10, lines 32, and page 11, lines 1 – 3)

(24) with regards to claim 25, Browne discloses the apparatus further comprising:

a display unit for displaying an image and/or character representing the piece of information to which the deletion flag is attached;(figure 6, page 25, lines 24) and

a flag cancellation unit for detaching the deletion flag from the piece of information using the image and/or character displayed by the display unit.(figure 6, lines 26 – 28) further clarifying that the user can flag the program to lock it or unflag the program to unlock it thereby removing the deletion flag.

(25) with regards to claim 26, Browne discloses an apparatus for recording a plurality of pieces of information on a recording medium and reproducing information thereon comprising:

a playback unit for reading a selected piece of information from a plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium to play back the selected piece of information;(page 13, lines 11 –13)

and a listing unit (figure 2, page 24, lines 19 – 22) for generating a list of images and/or characters representing the plurality of pieces of information recorded on the recording medium, and for showing the list on a display, wherein the listing unit deletes the selected piece of information from the list in response to a deletion command entered while the selected piece of information is being played back (figure 6, page 25, lines 24 – 30) further clarifying that figure 6 displays the characters.

(26) with regards to claim 27, Browne discloses the apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising:

a second listing unit for displaying on the display the image and/or character representing the piece of information which has been deleted from the list in response to the deletion command (page 25, lines 3 – 12) clarifying that if program is deleted then the display is updated to reflect this condition., and

a recovery unit for allowing the deleted piece of information to return to the list by specifying the image and/or character displayed by the second listing unit (page 25, lines 3 – 12) clarifying that the removed program can be reinstalled.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

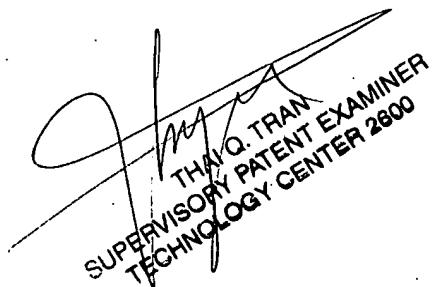
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Y. Hasan whose telephone number is 571-270-1082. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/8/5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S. Y. H.
1/23/2007



THI V. Q. TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600